Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township, & the Charter Township of Van Buren

152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI 48111 www.bellevilleareaindependent.com

Vol. 20.44 Thursday, October 30, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

# Accident sends one to hospital, drunk driver caught

By Rosemary K. Otzman Independent Editor

A man was run over on Rawsonville Road last Thursday night and is in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in a medically induced coma until he is stabilized.

A related incident resulted in the arrest of a drunk driver who tried to drive through the accident scene.

Sumpter Township Police Detective/ Corporal John Toth said police received multiple calls about the first accident, with the first call coming in at 8:21 p.m.

He said Rawsonville Road south of Willis is a very dark section of roadway and a series of events caused a person to get run

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**GRADNATS** 

РВЕЅОВТЕР

On Rawsonville Road between Rustic Lane and Judd Road, boaters who had just come off the lake, were backing their cigarette boat into their driveway. One person had gotten out of the vehicle to help direct the driver in his backing up. That helper was behind the headlights on the vehicle and a northbound driver couldn't

The helper was using a dollar store flashlight, Det./Cpl. Toth said, and suddenly he was in front of the northbound vehicle.

"It appears to be a true accident," Toth said, adding the northbound driver had no alcohol, but the victim had alcohol in his

(continued on page 23)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

A few hardworking members of the Belleville Central Business Community stop for a quick photo during Saturday afternoon's Booville event for children under the big tent on the Fourth Street Square. From left in front are Kathie Steigerwald, Janet Millard, and Thomas Millard, a volunteer. In back, from left, are Bob Stoner and Bill Wolters.

> This Space On The Front Page. Postal Regulations Require



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Five members of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority dressed in costume for their Booville meeting on Oct. 22 that was held in the city council chambers with the lights turned off. From left are DDA members: Mayor Kerreen Conley, Rosemary Loria, John Hoops, Jim Higgerson, and Sabrina Richardson Williams. There also was a table spread with a bowl of cider and treats to eat, as well as a flickering skull.

# Van Buren Twp. Police to be out in full force on Halloween night

"Historically, Van Buren Township Police and Fire Departments have increased personnel staffing on Halloween evening when our communities' children are out and about Trick or Treating, said VBT Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain in a news release.

"This year is no different and we will also be offering candy checks in the lobby of the police department for those families who wish to stop by at 46425 Tyler Road where our officers will be ready and happy to check candy from our children.

"This year we added Selected Enforcement Units to patrol our subdivisions and will be keeping an eye out for the safety of our kids during the hours of 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This Selected Enforcement will consist of high visibility marked patrol units assigned to specific areas where we anticipate heavy foot traffic," Director Laurain said.

Halloween has been celebrated on Oct. 31 in the United States since the early

1800s and is traditionally a family-oriented holiday when children get to dress up and enjoy candy and other treats, Laurain said.

(continued on page 22)





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October 30, 2014/Belleville Area Independent

### Page :

# SECOND FRONT PAGE

# Menard goes back to the drawing board before re-presenting plans

By Rosemary K. Otzman Independent Editor

At the end of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission meeting on Oct. 22, the *Independent* asked for an update on the pending Menard's project.

Patrick Sloan, a planning consultant who works for McKenna Associates and is filling in as the VBT planning director, said Menard is revising its plans.

He said Menard is changing its plans as far as landscaping and vantage points are concerned and they will hold a public session so people can talk directly to Menard's officials in an informal setting. Sloan said the revised plans will come back to the planning commission again and also will have to go back to the Board of Zoning Appeals for one or more variances.

Menard, which is requesting township approval to construct a home improvement store just north of Walmart on Belleville Road, already had a public hearing in August and had gone before the BZA and planning commission in September.

The planning commission expected to vote on special-use approval for Menard's outdoor storage at its Sept. 24 meeting and didn't wish to act until the BZA made its decision on variances.

The BZA chairwoman said she thought it was inappropriate for the BZA to act on variances before the planning commission acted on special-use approval.

The BZA decided not to act on any of the six variances requested and voted to have fact-finding before considering any of Menard's requests. The BZA held a second September meeting to approve Costco's second set of variances and its Oct. 14 meeting was cancelled for lack of agenda items. The planning commission did not consider Menard's project at all on Sept. 24 or its meetings in October.

The Nov. 11 BZA meeting was cancelled

because of Veterans Day, but a 7 p.m., Nov. 20 meeting is tentatively scheduled.

Action on Menard's plan was in limbo.

It was on Dec. 6, 2012 that Menard notified the township that it was no longer going to pursue locating a store at their first choice for a location on the North I-94 Service Drive west of Belleville Road.

They cited financial concerns related to costs associated with improvements required by Wayne County to deal with storm water management and the results of a recently completed traffic study.

# Karin LaMothe resigns as assistant to VBT Supervisor Combs - again

By Rosemary K. Otzman Independent Editor

Karin LaMothe, executive assistant to Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs, has resigned – again.

"I submitted my resignation on Oct. 13. In accordance with my contract, I am required to provide 30 days' notice, so my last day will be Nov. 13," LaMothe told the *Independent* on Monday.



Lawouic

"It has been an honor to work with Supervisor Combs and the Township's

many dedicated employees," she said.

the retirement of the Deputy Clerk in June 2014, I was unable to maintain my first three priorities to God, my family and my health; God instructed me to "step out of the boat."

"I have submitted a letter of interest for

"Given significantly more tasks since

"I have submitted a letter of interest for the DDA [VBT Downtown Development Authority deputy] position; however, first and foremost, it is important for me to obey God's calling and to have faith in His plan for my family and me," LaMothe said.

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland is in the final stages of selecting an assistant. In June, Combs gave up LaMothe for 16 hours a week to assistant Ireland and that assignment continues.

A year ago, LaMothe also resigned as assistant to Combs, but a few weeks later decided to stay on. At the time Supervisor Combs said she "begged" LaMothe to continue.

LaMothe was hired by Supervisor Combs as her executive assistant in January 2013, promoted to deputy supervisor in June 2013, and demoted to executive assistant in August 2013 after the board disputed the deputy position. VBT had never had a deputy supervisor prior to those two months in 2013.

LaMothe's last resignation was to be effective Oct. 18, 2013.

Correction: David
Brooks pleads guilty to
'attempt' misdemeanor

We didn't get to court because of a traffic accident on Oct. 15, so we took the official court record for gospel. Wrong.

It's been changed. David Brooks, the

former Romulus Police Officer who was involved in a road rage incident on Belleville Road in May, pled guilty to a new misdemeanor charge of "Attempted Assault with a Dangerous Weapon" as part of his plea deal.

This has been confirmed by Maria Miller, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor in charge of helping the press. The two felony charges of "Assault with a

Dangerous Weapon" and "Felony Firearm" were dismissed. Sentencing is Nov. 5.

We regret the misinformation on the plea

printed in last week's paper.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

# Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

The City of Belleville's new police car was delivered Monday morning, all ready to go. Cpl. Kris Faull shows off her department's new patrol vehicle. The 2015 AWD Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicle was purchased for \$26,295 through the Ford Municipal Finance Department with a state bid at the Aug. 4 city council meeting. When it was ready, the vehicle was taken to Priority One Emergency on Belleville Road in Canton for \$9,141 worth of prep work to install the police equipment, as well as putting on the wording.

# BHS Football Booster Club repeats annual scrap metal drive

On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Belleville High School Football Booster Club will hold its second-annual booster club scrap metal drive with drop-off hours between noon and 6 p.m.

All scrap-metal products (steel appliances, fans, steel or aluminum cans, swing set, car parts, etc.) can be dropped off behind St. Anthony's Catholic Church, on Davis Street close to the high school parking lot.

The club's scrap metal fundraisers help it focus on its mission of promoting community pride and a commitment to keeping the youth healthy with better eating.

"Community support allows the Football Booster Club the ability to providing nutritional foods to BHS athletic players," said club president Charmel Jackson.

"It helps the citizens of Belleville feel like part of the solution. Working together

to promote recycling and re-use through our annual fundraiser helps reduce the amount of material going into the landfill and allows us to be that difference.

"Missing meals and eating poorly are two of the worst things that an athlete can do. Poor nutrition can cause injury and lean muscle mass. Further, poor nutrition will cause you to lack that required energy you need before practice and before games. Your player will not outlast the competition." (Dr. Mohammed S. Alo's: FootballTimes. org).

"It is the BHS Football Booster Club's goal to provide our teammates with nutritional snacks before practice and a game day meal before every game," she said

Call Jackson at (313) 806-6659 or Joe Walker at (734) 787-0054 to schedule pickup or assistance with large items.

Belleville Area Independent/October 30, 2014

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

<u>Editorial</u>

## Be sure to cast your votes on Tuesday

Don't forget to go to the polls on Tuesday and cast your ballot, with your decisions on several important questions. Many have already cast their votes by way of absentee ballots. If you haven't voted, be sure to do so Tuesday.

In the City of Belleville there is an important question on the ballot. If it passes, the Civil Service Commission will be erased from the city charter. The mayor wants it gone and has refused to appoint anyone to the three-member commission. The council has not acted on the last two recommendations sent to it from the commission. The city administration is acting as if the commission is already gone. It isn't. It's still in the city charter and should stay there. Vote NO.

There are seats to be filled on the school board and library board and these are important to local residents. We were appalled by the letters last week from Toni Hunt, who voters did not return to the school board in the last election. She now votes in another school district. Her comments obviously were to benefit those still on the board, not the residents. Hunt should be ashamed of herself. She's doing the dirty work for those behind the scenes.

We like the energy, education, and youth of the Common Cents Library Slate. Voters should give them a chance to get the library mess straightened out.

Of course, there are votes for state and national representatives, which are important, but less likely to have direct impact on us local residents. However you vote, just DO IT! Your vote counts.

# **EXTRA THINGS I KNOW**

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, children at Edgemont Elementary took home a notice that "hand, foot, and mouth disease" has shown up in the school and it is easily transmitted among children. It can show up as fever, blister-like sores in the mouth and a skin

One babysitter who read the notice Googled it and found information on foot and mouth disease (or hoof and mouth disease), which shows up only in animals and is not this disease.

I checked with the administration building and found that Edgemont has sent out this same notice for five years as the common problem occurs. This year, two students in one classroom got it and so the school is alerting parents, who can tell their kids to wash their hands often, not to hug and kiss friends, and not to share eating utensils,

There's no vaccine to protect against the viruses that cause this disease and no treatment, except for treating the symptoms. That includes staying hydrated by drinking water, and using over-the-counter stuff for the itching.

At last week's VBT Planning Commission meeting, Commissioner Bob McKenna encouraged Commissioner Don Boynton to tell about his recent ferry trip from the mainland to Mackinac Island and the Grand Hotel for the Michigan Association of Planners conference, Oct. 8-10.

Boynton said his ferry trip was fine, but others told about their trip on the Shepler's ferry where the waves got to be 6 to 9' high and the boat had to stop for a while. They were very shaken when they arrived, he



I remember when I went to a Michigan Press Association convention at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island years ago. Our publisher arranged for a small plane to take us to the island from Marine City and then home again after the convention. That was a very nice way to travel. No waves.

Steve Kovach said that he had leased his Tin Pan restaurant in Sumpter Township, to another person and she recently closed it. He said he will be reopening it and he'll buy some ads in the Independent to announce to the public when that will be.

"It can't just sit empty," he said.

A resident of Harris Road told me he and another neighbor saw a bunch of paper blowing around on their road the morning of Saturday, Oct. 18. When they started picking up the papers, he said, they found out it was money. There were 20s and 10s and empty envelopes for raffles. He said they picked up about \$150.

He said Sumpter police told them that the Moose had been broken into and \$1,500 stolen. There also was a cellphone that was heard ringing that stopped ringing, but Sumpter police found it with a metal detector.

When I called Sumpter Police on Friday, Det./Cpl. Toth told me that there was a delay in solving the case, but it has been solved and the Moose president is fully

aware of the details. Det. Toth said he can't discuss those details right now and it will be about 30 days before he can say anything for publication. He said there is a lot going on for his office and it's not a top priority now. And, it takes a while to get a warrant

from an over-loaded prosecutor's office.

The man on Harris said he didn't call us sooner because he thought we would have had the story in the Oct. 23 paper, but we didn't.

We didn't know anything about it until our reader called.

Moose manager Robert Coutts said when he got to the Moose hall at about 11:30 a.m. that Saturday, he saw the plexiglas door near the bar had been kicked in, so he called 911. The police came out and then the Harris Road people called police about what they found. The two people involved were identified.

He said the family of a person involved made partial restitution and they are waiting for the bid on the door for further payment. Coutts said it was an inexpensive lesson for the Moose to learn: that they have to make their new building more secure. Coutts said one of the police officers told him he had been on the force for 15 years and the PNA Hall never had a break-in before.

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### Letters

### Response by Russell, Frazier to letters

To the Editor:

This is a response by Scott Russell and Sherry Frazier to two letters by Toni Hunt printed in last week's paper:

As candidates seeking re-election to the VBPS Board of Education, the two of us find it unfortunate that Toni Hunt, former resident and school board member, found it necessary to unfairly characterize us in last week's paper. Her innuendos and misrepresentations are meant to scare voters at a time when we are making tremendous progress as a school district.

Since joining the board four years ago, we helped balance the budget, improve the quality of education, increase the level of safety in our schools, invest in technology, invest in teachers, and build a state-of-theart high school. We accomplished these things by listening to parents and asking the tough questions.

If re-elected, we will continue to listen to you, the voter. We will continue to ask the tough questions. We will continue with our unwavering commitment to our children and this district. We will never be intimidated by bullies ... and we will never be a rubber stamp.

That is our promise to you, which is why we are asking for your vote on Nov. 4.

Respectfully,

Scott Russell and Sherry Frazier Candidates for School Board



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### In response to Hunt: Frazier gets my vote!

To the Editor:

This is in response to Toni Hunt's letter last week in the Independent in regard to Ms. Frazier who is running for re-election. I am appalled by Ms. Hunt's absurd and totally false portrayal of Ms. Frazier, who is currently a board member with the Van Buren Schools system who is running for re-election in the current 2014 campaign.

Ms. Frazier happened to be one of my high school teachers at Truman High School in 1980. She was one of my favorite teachers, as I recalled later in our many conversations while at the Belleville Library.

Ms. Frazier is friendly, kind, and has a great sense of humor. She has always been very helpful and pleasant. I cannot imagine anyone writing such defamatory, slanderous untruths about anyone who could not be nicer, more generous or more transparent than Sherry Frazier.

In my opinion, she has a passion for education and the students, as well, which spans decades of experience. She definitely has my VOTE!

Yvonne Foster Sumpter Township

### Thanks for helping put flags on veterans' graves

To the Editor:

The Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee wishes to thank the volunteers who helped place American flags on all veterans' graves at Hillside Cemetery for Veterans Day 2014.

On Saturday Oct. 25 approximately 72 adults and children from the Belleville community and surrounding areas met at the cemetery to place flags on the graves of over 500 veterans. This project is done twice each year, in anticipation of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

We appreciate the contribution of these volunteers in recognizing the service of our deceased veterans.

The Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee, City of Belleville

### Library announces 'BOO\_' sale on Saturday, Nov. 1

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library will hold a "BOO\_" sale (a usedbook sale) with the prices cut in half on Saturday, Nov. 1. Members of the Friends group are invited to the pre-sale, from 11 a.m. until noon. The public is welcome from noon to 3 p.m.

The Friends say this is the last Booville activity for 2014.

One Call Does It All . . . ... At the Independent 699-9020

### Grateful Russell, Frazier are not rubber stamps

To the Editor:

This letter is a comment in opposition to the letters scathingly critical of Scott Russell and Sherry Frazier. These two school board members are well- respected, intelligent, dedicated public servants and do not deserve the harsh criticism submitted against them by a disgruntled, previous board member.

It is duly noted that few of us are perfect. However, there can be no honest doubt that both Mr. Russell and Ms. Frazier in their discussions and actions are oriented primarily to the welfare of the students.

I, for one, am grateful that neither is a rubber stamp for any administrator or other board member.

I urge the community to support their reelection to our school board.

Barbara Rogalle Miller A Van Buren Resident



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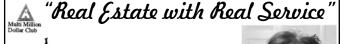
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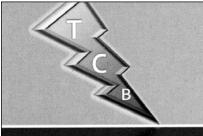
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# **Obituaries**

### JACQUELYN S. LaMANCE

(January 4, 1956 - October 26, 2014) Jacqueline Suzanne LaMance, age 58, of

Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, October 26, 2014 at Henry Ford-Wyandotte Hospital, Wyandotte, MI. She was born January 4, 1956 in Washtenaw County, MI, daughter of Richard Peter & Phyllis Anne (Storen) LaMance.

Jackie was a 1976 graduate of Belleville High School. She worked for the Ypsilanti Post Office as a letter carrier for several years before taking a medical retirement. She enjoyed reading and puzzles. She loved computers, following blog posts, playing weekly card games, music, and her cats.

Jackie is survived by three brothers Dan (Shawna) LaMance of Livonia, MI, Jeff (Kitty) LaMance of Belleville and Richard LaMance of Whitmore Lake, MI; sister Michelle (Ed) Rodriguez of Belleville; nieces & nephews: Jessica, Brian, Cameron & Andrea LaMance; close friend John Mills of Belleville; also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, nephew Dan LaMance, Jr. in 1993, also a brother-in-law Todd Williams in 2006.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family and would be appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at <a href="https://www.davidcbrownfh.com">www.davidcbrownfh.com</a>.

### <u>GORDON G. CONKLIN</u>

(August 7, 1940 - October 22, 2014)

Age 74, died in Alpena. BHS class of 1958. Survived by wife Rose Ann (Rochowiak); 5 children; 9 grandchildren; 1 sister, 3 brothers. Funeral was Oct. 27 at David C. Brown Funeral Home. Michigan Memorial Park.

### BECKY ANN ALLEN

(February 20, 1944 - October 27, 2014)

Age 70, of Belleville. Survived by husband Robert Allen; 4 daughters Debbie, Karen, Christine, Donna; 8 grandchildren. Services 1-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

### **More Letters**

# Why fill the air with negative politicking?

To the Editor:

This is an open letter regarding the call to defeat Scott Russell and Sherry Frazier in the upcoming election.

I can understand feeling threatened by what one or more candidates might accomplish if they continue in their current offices, but are the opposing candidates so lacking in merit, so unqualified than those you campaign against that you would rather fill the air with negative politicking, begging us to defeat Scott Russell and Sherry Frazier, than standing behind one of their opponents and talk up their worth?

And "defeat" them? How much power do you think they have as individuals of a committee?

I am also left wondering about the concern with transparency and proper behavior. How many of us "Neighbors" had mail delivered to us this week with copies of these letters to the editor in the *Independent* – anonymously. No return address. No one even bothered to lick the envelope.

I have worked with the school board before. I have worked with the parents in various groups. Most importantly, I have worked for the kids and the teachers of this district. And I am definitely not the only parent who can say this. There is a wonderful momentum that can be gained by working FOR something instead of AGAINST it.

Please take a step back, look at the playing field, and find someone to stand behind not someone to knock down.

Thank you, Amy O'Brien Sumpter Township

# Why you should reelect Frazier for school board

To the Editor:

I believe that participating and serving in your community is important. Citizen participation is crucial in keeping a strong democracy and a vital public school system is key.

We all benefit from a strong school system whether we have students in the system or not. As a former educator and long-time realtor, I know that schools are a key selling point of a community. I think as a board member with integrity I have contributed to moving the school district forward and provided more dialogue at the board table and with the community.

All my children, grandson are graduates of VBPS and I have a granddaughter attending VBPS.

- Serving on the Board the last four years has been challenging. We inherited a budget from the previous board that was in the RED. We made tough decisions that balanced the budget which is now in the BLACK. I am proud to say that we achieved this without privatizing our support staff.
- We were also faced with major cuts from Lansing which the superintendent and his cabinet skillfully guided us through.
- We also moved into a new state-of-the-

art high school and established a grade realignment at Owen and McBride schools and moved our preschool program to a bigger facility.

- We coordinated our curriculum and continue to strengthen our math, reading science, and writing programs with Everyday and Carnegie math, New Tech. Einstein Science Lab, Read 180. We now use data to find out where student learning is and how best to improve it on an individual basis.
- Our teachers and administration have done professional development and are committed to seeing all students succeed. They have gone above and beyond in every way. Our staff has stepped up to meet the new demands in education.
- Education has and continues to evolve. How we used to do things doesn't work in this technological global world we live in.

As a board member I would like to continue helping all students get the opportunities that will make them successful and lifelong learners. To always do what is best for students when making decisions.

Please participate by voting on Nov. 4. A vote for Sherry Frazier would be greatly appreciated.

Sherry Frazier, Van Buren Township Van Buren Public Schools Treasurer

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### Sherry Frazier is great choice for school board

To the Editor:

I am encouraging each voter to take the time to get to know the candidates running for school board before making a decision based on the rantings of a former board member.

Toni Hunt's letter to the editor in the last edition of the *Independent* about Sherry Frazier was written by someone who no longer lives in the community and was not reelected to serve our district.

Sherry Frazier was an educator until she recently retired. She has the best interests of our teachers and our students in mind and is a fierce advocator for what is best for the district, not just what is best for the administration.

There are members of our current school board who served with Toni Hunt. While she has no personal stake in this election, she is obviously trying to keep the school board running as it did when she was a

She is trying to sway voters to elect school board members who will vote with her former school board members and not challenge the status-quo. She cannot even vote in the district since her primary residence is in another community. Please consider that when casting your ballot.

Sherry Frazier raised her children in our district and currently has a grandchild attending our schools. She listens to the concerns of parents, responds when contacted, and votes on issues based on what will best serve the educational needs of our students.

Crystal Walrath City of Belleville

### I am seeking re-election to the School Board

To the Editor and the Community:

My name is Kevin English, and I am seeking re-election to the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on Tuesday,

Before you head to the polls, I wanted to share a few of my essential beliefs as a current high school teacher and board

Community

**Thanksgiving Service** 

Sunday, November 23 @ 7pm

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894 East Huron River Drive

Calling out to Pastors and Churches

to an evening of Praise & Worship.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** 

I believe that every student can be successful and that public schools play a vital role in the community. During my term on the board, I have worked to provide a wide array of learning opportunities for all of our students, including those that struggle and those that excel. We have implemented a variety of curricula within the district, all of which are research-based and targeted to meet our students' needs.

I believe that teachers should have the necessary tools and support to accomplish the work they do. In an era of increased accountability, I know that these are trying times for teachers. As a teacher in a nearby school district, I understand the increased demands of learning and growth. I support our teachers and the difficult work they do every day. Further, I feel that my experience as a teacher offers a unique perspective to the board of education as we continue to make student achievement our

I believe that board members should always keep the best interests of students in mind. It's easy to devolve into arguments and disagreements, but if we maintain a focus on the students and community we serve, we will ensure the success of all our students. Every vote that I have cast over my five years on the board has been in the best interest in students. The stakes have never been higher for school districts and boards of education with shrinking budgets and increased accountability from Lansing. Know that difficult decisions are never made lightly, but I always make the most informed decision that will have the least impact on the classroom.

I believe that the district should continue its focus on student learning, long-term planning and stability, and focused professional development for our staff. As a teacher, I know how vital these things are to ensure long-term success and growth of our district. During my term on the board of education, we have worked to become more consistent and focused in our practices and

our approach to learning, and we have seen gains in student achievement. I would like to continue that work.

I hope to see you at the polls on Nov. 4.

Kevin English Candidate for Re-Election Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education

### **Historical millstone on** front lawn of museum

A cache of millstones, mentioned in the Otisville chapter of "Water Under the Bridge," were left to me by the Horste family in 2007. I did, I believe, the only critical examination of the stones ever done, and have finished my research.

In an effort to lighten my own load, I have made arrangements to loan them to the Belleville Area Museum for public display, with the intent of welcoming any other examination, historical comment, and sparking public interest in the wonderful history of this area.

May these millstones roll again into the hearts and minds of those who cherish our local and national history!

Jimmi Chapman South Shore of the Huron

# **Upcoming Meetings**

- Monday, Nov. 3 Van Buren Township special work/study meeting at 4 p.m. for the purpose of going into closed-door session to discuss attorney-client privileged written opinion concerning Visteon. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 4 General Election Day. No Van Buren Township meeting.
- Wednesday, Nov. 5 Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. • Monday, Nov. 10 - Van Buren Public
- Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Owen Intermediate School. There will be a tour of the building at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11 Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority at 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township meetings cancelled because of the Veterans' Day holiday.





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### The value of an eightpound rainbow trout

To the Editor:

I remember the day well. School had just let out for summer vacation. It was a beautiful summer morning in June of 1975. My friends and I were just dropped off for a day of fishing at a nearby lake; we were all excited.

A few hours later my friend reeled in the highlight of our day: an eight-pound rainbow trout. I proudly volunteered to carry that fish around the remainder of that day. The sign marking our newly found fishing spot read "French Landing."

That fishing trip marked the beginning of many excursions to Belleville Lake. I fondly remember the days of driving my

# Craft & Vendor Show

at

### Belleville Coney Island

Sat., November 1 & 15,

December 13 & 20 ~ 10am – 3pm 871 Sumpter Rd., Belleville shaky VW bus down I-94 on warm summer mornings, exiting at Belleville Road to spend Saturday morning's fishing from the floating docks of Doane's bait shop. It became my weekend ritual.

As time passed, some of the dirt roads became paved and some of the cornfields made way to new buildings. Belleville, my quaint, weekend getaway, was growing up.

Those weekend trips slowly dissipated, replaced by the responsibilities of life. I had always dreamed of being an architect and that dream engulfed my weekends. Little did I know that dream would bring me full circle back to Belleville?

I attended the college of Architecture at Lawrence Institute of Technology and received both my Bachelor and Professional degrees in Architecture. I began my career working for a couple of notable architectural firms before founding my own company.

Eventually my firm joined forces with a local and well-respected Design Build company known as the DeMattia Group. This new venture brought me back professionally to the area in 1999. DeMattia had land interest in Van Buren Township and I became the point of contact in designing the buildings to fit into the community.

I worked closely with the Van Buren Planning Commission in developing viable solutions for local businesses – Ricardo at Haggerty and Tyler Road is an example. Ultimately, the measure of success of a building is how well it functions for the users and how it relates to its surroundings. The process for this success to happen is time consuming and requires the involvement of the stake holders to be successful. This process applies to just about every building conceived for development – including the proposed district library.

Establishing the project team is the first step in the process of designing a new building or renovating an existing one. With respect to the proposed district library, the Library Board and the architect act as the team leaders. It is their responsibility to discover and establish all the criteria necessary to develop a building program reflecting the planning, functional, and economic needs of the community. This discovery work requires the input from the professionals as well as the library cardholders.

Typically, the more involved and informed the users are the more successful a project becomes, and in the case of the proposed new district library the better the chances that the millage will be approved. The residents of the community need to become part of the discovery process through interviews, focus groups, and surveys. We, the Common Cents Library Slate, have already been asking the residents questions about their library needs while we introduce ourselves to the community walking door to door. If you spot us on the street feel to stop us and ask questions.

Planning is a major driver for the overall community success of the library project. The new proposed library is more than just a building. I have heard Sumpter and Van Buren residents refer to Belleville as the gem of the community; a quaint historic town nestled by the lake; it is very unique. Belleville is widely known for its Strawberry Festival and community social events.

In order to strengthen these community events Belleville must remain viable economically by maintaining a commercial center, namely the small businesses along Main Street. The placement of the library will have a major impact on the economic success of the downtown area. The library is not just a book storage facility; it's a community social center, as well.

The project team needs to evaluate, with

input from the community, not only what services the library provides internally, but how it impacts it surroundings. This may also require input from the Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren Township Planning Departments.

While talking to residents of the community the Common Cents Library Slate has discovered, not surprisingly, that many residents travel to nearby community libraries instead of our own. The project team needs to analyze what services and technology are needed for our library to better serve our community. And, what better way is there to finding that out than by asking the people who use the library.

And, of course, money. It is imperative that the project team begin to build a project budget early in the design process. This can begin as soon as a rough building area is established. There is enough data in the building profession about libraries specifically to begin building a budget model. As the project priorities are established and construction methods identified the budget model can be refined. This applies to both existing building expansions and new structures.

This is an important project for this community. It has both short- and long-term impacts on our community. It requires community involvement and experienced professionals to lead the process.

The Common Cents Library Slate of Caver, Grant, Miller, and Stoudemire offer their many years of professional experience in planning, design, process and budget management. A vote for the Common Cents Library Slate on Nov. 4 comes at no monetary cost to you – our experience is freely volunteered.

And, for me, I attribute this opportunity to serve the community to an eight-pound rainbow trout.

Bernard A. Grant – Candidate for Trustee for the Belleville Area District Library





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### Treading water: Final lap of BADL leadership

To the Editor:

Well, we are on the final lap of what I hope to be the icing on the cake, of the change in leadership in the BADL [Belleville Area District Library Board]. This has been years in the making, with the open hostility presented by the leaders of the library board with complete contempt of the voting public.

Finally with the past August election, the communities had spoken and the \$45 million white elephant was defeated. Now, with their jobs on the line, the incumbents on the board have changed their tunes, including the high and mighty queen herself

Please: the voters saw through the mistakes, money wasted on attorney fees, consultations and studies. The attitude of the BADL was all-out war on the public; it was all or nothing by them. There were never any other sites considered; this was a one-way trip, bought and paid for by the taxpaying communities.

I never understood how, if the BADL had it their way, we'd have less books (which we are underfunded in that department) and more e-readers and computers. Okay, I can live with more computers, but e-readers? Ever been in a video rental store? An e-reader is a little larger than a video box;

so with generally less than 5,000 sq. feet of space, they (the stores) held thousands of videos; so pray tell, did we need a huge mansion on the water, to hold, maybe hundreds of e-readers?

The whole thing stunk pretty bad to me. And then, all the thousands of dollars wasted that could have brought the current location a new roof and other much-needed repairs. I have been asked time and time again, why I never bothered to go to a BADL meeting; it was in the press many times, how the chairperson, queen, dictator for life, would bang the gravel, and shout down any person who dared question her or the BADL's decisions; of course, the library's lawyer (really, a lawyer?) responded that she had every right to do so. Now, if I had gone to a meeting, you would have sworn you were at a football rally with all that drumming of the gravel going on.

Now, what is very telling on the chairwoman's part, is if you bothered to look at the paid endorsements of her own party, the Democrats, SHE was NOT endorsed. In fact, not only did her own party, back away from her, they not only endorsed the Common Cents Library Committee, they went on to endorse a 5th person, to a 4-candidate election. Very telling and damning indeed.

Myself, I wish the Common Cents party all the luck; I know they have many years of experience among the group, but I hope they don't intend to follow up and offer up their own version of waste we already voted down.

PLEASE, if you must try and pass off a NEW library, keep it in town and under \$10 million. Oh, by the way, to the "silent supporters of the new library," I think you need to have another potato dinner; it looks like the soon-departing queen will be needing something good to go with the eating of crow.

Bob Balderston City of Belleville

# Apply for Goodfellows help beginning Nov. 3

To the Editor:

Applications to receive assistance for the 2014 Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows Christmas Food and Toy Distribution Program will begin at 9 a.m., Monday, Nov. 3, at the Van Buren Township Police Department front desk where the forms will be available.

Printable forms will also be available on line on the Van Buren Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org.

The program is open to Belleville City and Van Buren Township residents only. Sumpter Township has its own Goodfellows program.

Families may apply or pick up forms any time 24/7 after 9 a.m., Monday, Nov. 3. You must apply in person with proof of residency – driver's license, state ID or utility bill showing name and address. Call-in, mail-in, or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

Applications for assistance will close Friday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m.

For more info or questions about the Goodfellows program, contact Pam Fleming at (734) 699-8934 weekdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thank you, Pam Fleming, Coordinator Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows



David R. Fenn, who passed away quickly 1 year ago today,
Oct. 28, 2013. Born Nov. 16, 1934
May his energy & spirit live on in the hearts of all his family & friends.
Love, George & Debbie



# The Common Cents Library Committee & The Southwestern Wayne County Democratic Club

endorse these 4 candidates for the November 4th General Election
Belleville Area District Library Trustees



**LaChelle Reed Caver**: a Sumpter township resident and lawyer with 15+ years in practice and co-pastor of a southwest Detroit community church. Law practice centers around families, seniors and children.



**Bernard A. Grant**: a Van Buren resident, with 28+ years in architecture, planning and project management. Currently overseeing major public and private developments in southeastern Michigan.



**Phillip Miller**: a City of Belleville resident with 20+ years in municipal and non-profit financial, project and grant management. Currently Deputy Finance Director for an Oakland County community of 30,000 residents.



**Tanya Stoudemire** (*Mrs. Phillips*): a Van Buren resident with 25+ years in municipal financial management including Detroit Libraries. Currently General Manager of a City Income Tax Department.



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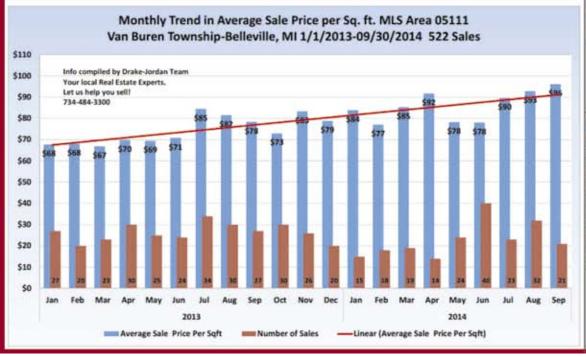
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41295 Woodbury Green, Belleville \$46,900– 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 2 story condo. Fresh paint, new carpet, patio w shed, swimming pool...a must see!



48245 Bayshore, Belleville \$159,900- 2 bdrm, 1.1 bath condo on Belleville Lake! Lakefront views from all 3 levels, finished walk-out bsmt w/ bar, fireplace& balcony. Spectacular!





Infant-3 years

Groups

and Family

Prizes for Winner and Runner-Up!

10-12

13 & up

# Vote for Dawson, Monte, Peters, Henning

To the Editor:

There are decisions in front of voters next week that will make a difference in the future of our beloved library. Four candidates, MJ Dawson, Joe Monte, Sharon Peters, and Paul Henning, have one major difference from the others: they actually USE the library! They care and value the library and the services it provides because they regularly visit the library, go to library programs, check out materials, and volunteer

Dawson, Monte and Henning, original appointees to the first district library board, were engaged and involved in the library before a district library ever existed. They were appointed because they cared about the library and the citizens it serves, could be trusted with the responsibility of providing quality library services to the tricommunity citizens.

Sharon Peters, while not one of the original appointees, is also a heavy library user.

These four candidates are running for library board because of their connection with books, with education, with early literacy, with lifelong learning, with the library's role as information technology provider, and have experienced firsthand the library's role in enriching their lives and their families' lives.

Three of them are retired from education or nursing, and all have spent their personal and professional lives taking care of others, enriching others, educating others. They are not running for library board because of some perceived political gain, because they need another bullet point on a resume, or because of personal animosities. They are running for library board because they believe this community deserves more than an undefined "sufficient" library.

If you care about the library's role in making this community a better place to live, if you want library board members who actually know about the library, if you are tired of ugly politics, then this is an opportunity for you to vote for four candidates that have only one reason to run for library board: they care about the library's ability to provide relevant quality services for you and your family. It's a simple choice. Vote for Dawson, Monte, Henning and Peters.

Joy Cichewicz BADL Board Member

### **Anniversaries**

Oct. 23 – Shawn and Anna Knox, 4 years.

Oct. 29 – Jenny and Yianni Jenimatas, 3 years.

# **Important: Vote for all 4 on Common Cents slate**

To the Editor:

The Common Cents Library Committee believes in the following values: Accountability, Transparency, Community Involvement and Respect.

One of the key reasons, I decided to run for a seat on the Library Board was the lack of community input in the process to build a new library.

Furthermore, as a Sumpter Township resident, I felt disrespected at what was being offered to the residents of Sumpter in regards to the satellite location. In speaking with other members of the community, I soon learned that they felt disrespected as well. In order to try to effectuate change, I knew that I had to get involved. Therefore, I joined the Common Cents Library Committee which is comprised of members who value and respect the community.

As a co-pastor and attorney with a practice which centers on families, seniors and children, I understand and appreciate the concepts of community (client) involvement and respect. In my practice of law, I realize the importance of listening and taking into account the needs and concerns of my clients. In ministry one of my duties is listening to and praying with and for others.

Both practicing law and ministry have taught me the significance of putting others needs before my own. In other words, there is no room for personal beliefs or agendas. I have to pay attention to and respect the requests and input of those who I represent or pastor.

Sometimes, I have to make unpopular and tough decisions that serve the best interests of my clients. Nevertheless, even in making the tough decisions my clients are never disrespected or undervalued. I believe that the District Library Board deserves members who will understand the importance of community input and respecting the citizens as well as their viewpoints.

Every member of the Common Cents Slate understands the importance of not only community involvement and respect, but also the need for accountability and transparency. In order to acquire these values on the Belleville Area District Library Board, it is so important for the members of the BADL communities to vote for the entire Common Cents Slate.

Vote 4: Caver, Grant, Miller and Stoudemire on Nov. 4.

LaChelle Reed Caver, Member, Common Cents Library Committee

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**Re-Elect** 



# **Sherry Frazier**

for VBPS School Board

- Proud and involved Van Buren Township resident for over 30 years
- Committed to VBPS! 3 children and 1 grandson are Belleville grads

lleville grads



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Brings education and business experience to the board table

- Focused on improving communication, curriculum and staff morale
- Willing to take on tough issues with a collaborative spirit



November 4, 2014

Frazier for School Board

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# Re-Elect Scott Russell for School Board

### As a School Board Trustee, I helped:

- Balance the budget and restore fiscal responsibility
- Improve the quality of education for our students
- Increase the level of safety in each of our schools

I am proud of my record, but there is still more work to do. This is why I am asking for **YOUR VOTE** on Nov. 4th.





Paid for by the Friends to Re-Elect Scott Russell, 175 Chaney St., Belleville, MI 48111







### Vote for Caver, Grant, Stoudemire, Miller

To the Editor:

There is a definite need in this community, a need for new leadership with the skills to bring the community visions to life. For the last four years, our current library board has been hiding behind closed doors, discussing their ideas (or those of their hired professional architect, director and attorney) for the Taj Mahal library without listening to the community.

The Common Cents Slate, in canvassing neighborhood after neighborhood, has come to learn that the community was largely unaware of these plans until they were sprung from whole cloth to face the electorate. The community reacted with a resounding defeat to the utter surprise of this library board. Their reaction is unbelievable, except that Common Cents Library Committee has been a witness to this history.

Committed civil service professionals, planners and counselors listen to the citizens, customers and clients. This is where the Common Cents Slate has our strength. We know how to go and find the voters, conduct focus groups, structure surveys and are comfortable talking directly with community leaders and citizens that don't know that they can play a role in shaping the library's future.

Couple these skills to an understanding of the Government Finance Officers Association best practices for capital planning, community investments and budgeting, a whole new world of possibilities will be available to the residents of these communities for library services.

Good planning and budgeting require an eye to the future, understanding what changes are facing the organization through market, legislative, capital plans, community and user expectations. These elements have been missing from the current library board decisions for a long time and have focused on the limited views and desires of a narrow few.

The members of the Common Cents slate

have the knowledge, skills and abilities to bring these important elements critical to good organizational and resource planning to bear for the benefit of the community. While we are voting for trustees of the Belleville Area District Library, we are also voting to bring leadership to serve the broader community, not just library users and patrons. We have learned from a lot of residents that they didn't even know where the current library is.

We will have a lot of work to do if we are going to convince these same voters (and we know that they are active voters based on our data) to tax themselves to support a new library.

We ask the voters in our communities to support the Common Cents Library Committee slate of Lachelle Reed Caver, Bernard Grant, Tanya Stoudemire and Phillip Miller next Tuesday. We have the background, knowledge, skills and abilities to serve the library and the broader community.

Phillip Miller Common Cents Library Committee

# **Urge a NO vote on City Charter change**

To the Editor and City of Belleville Voters:

At the June 16 Belleville City Council meeting the Council voted to add to the November election ballot an amendment to the City Charter that would eliminate the Civil Service Commission. Councilman Fielder stated this was not a "stealth" maneuver and there should be further discussion / meeting on the proposed amendment -- this did not happen.

As of the time absentee ballots were mailed out, NO meeting was called to discuss the eliminating of the Civil Service Commission, which prompted my letter and Don Bluhm's letter that appeared in the *Independent* and the mailing of my letter to absentee voters.

Why does the Council/Administration want to eliminate the Civil Service Commission? Could it be two City employees (Police Chief Taylor and Public Works Director Keith Boc) won their appeals? To say it another way, the Administration/Council

lost. The City Council has yet to act on the Civil Service recommendations.

Among the duties of the Civil Service Commission is to insure that hiring of employees is based on qualifications/merit and not political patronage or relationships, and to provide protection to Civil Service Employees that are enjoyed by the City unionized employees.

Again, I urge you to VOTE NO on the proposed Charter amendment.

Richard Smith Belleville Mayor, 2007-2011 Belleville Councilman 1985-1997 Belleville Mayor Pro-Tem 1995-1997 Chairman, Belleville Charter Commission 1981-1982

### **Birthdays**

Oct. 24 – Elaine Gutierrez

Oct. 26 – Paul Henning

Oct. 27 – Emma Palmer

Oct. 27 – Bill Wolters

Oct. 30 - Judy Musselman, Tim Marsh

Oct. 31 - Becky Hasen

Nov. 3 – Shawn Knox

Nov. 4 – Kollen Knox

Do you have a birthday in November? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.



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### 'Walk for a Dog' app benefits Friends of Mich. Animals Rescue

Marci LaFramboise, vice president of Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue based in Sumpter Township, announces that FMAR will earn funds through the "Walk for a Dog" Android and iPhone app.

FMAR supporters are encouraged to add <u>WoofTrax.com</u> to their devices and start walking their dogs for their shelter.

"I believe FMAR and Buster Foundation are both signed up to get \$ just by uploading this new app to their phone, filling out their name, their dog's name, a picture of the dog, and choose their shelter of choice," LaFramboise said.

"When you are ready to walk you just click the start button and start walking! It tracks your mileage and speed. When you are done, just click stop until the next walk."

The app says: "Every mile you walk, we donate to your local animal shelter."

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

– Albert Einstein



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In the last four years Governor Snyder & Republicans have:

- Repealed item pricing laws that protect consumers from being overcharged;
- Shifted tax burdens from business to seniors and our most vulnerable citizens by creating a Tax on Pensions and eliminating the Earned Income Tax Credit and \$600 per Dependent Child Tax Exemption;
- Cut unemployment benefits amidst a major recession & high unemployment rates;
- Shredded workers compensation insurance while eliminating worker safety commissions;
- Passed right-to-work legislation under the guise of "freedom to work";
- Placed emergency managers who thwarted democracy and took control of cities and schools;
- Cut funding to K-12 and Higher Education;
- Gave public dollars to corporations like cyber schools and outsourced corrections department work;
- And if all that isn't bad enough... How are the roads you're driving on?

This message brought to you by the Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club, P. O Box 1182, Belleville, MI 48112. Not authorized by any campaign or candidate.

### Vote NO to repeal vital part of City Charter

To the Editor:

This Nov. 4, 2014, on Election Day, the citizens of Belleville will be asked to remove a very important part of their City Charter. Removal of this section of the City Charter or any section of the City Charter requires careful, adequate conversation and public debate.

The Civil Service Commission is made up of members of the community. Most members are business persons, professionals and the like. These members are citizens of the City that care for the well-being of all citizens and serve the commission with the goal of transparency in government. Civil Service members possess the ability to understand community needs and understand the importance of eliminating favoritism and distrust in government.

Chapter 16 (XVI) of the City Charter, Civil Service, is important because it provides guidelines to the municipality regarding hiring, promoting and discipline of employees under the Civil Service Commission's rules and regulations. The Civil Service Commission often consults with City leaders and council to determine appropriate rules and regulations that assists in accomplishing effective service and maintain healthy employee/employer relationships.

Currently, the City of Belleville has only one employee that is under the umbrella of the Civil Service. However, there are very important positions such as Chief of Police and Director of Public Works that are required to be hired and managed under the guidelines established by the Civil Service Commission.

To better understand this important change we are asked to consider with this Charter amendment, we must define the true purpose of the Civil Service system. The Civil Service Commission is a commission of appointed members of the community at large (citizens). Most current Federal, state and local governments hire the great majority of their employees through this type of system. Civil Service is supposed to

reduce the influence of politics on hiring and make the process competitive and fair.

In addition to fairness and transparent government, the Civil Service Commission provides a cost-effective method of hiring employees based on merit, as determined through examinations. This reduces political influence in the hiring, promotion and dismissal of employees. Civil Service also provides guidelines for retirement benefits and other benefits that other non-Civil Service employees enjoy. Such an incident recently occurred during the public hearings for the previous Chief of Police and Public Works Director where there was a dispute over healthcare costs. This is the precise reasoning for the Civil Service System which is to ensure fair public consideration regarding employee benefits of important and dedicated employees that have provided years of service to you and me. Removal of Civil Service would empower the municipality to revoke benefits or change other job conditions at will, unless specifically prohibited by established personnel rules and/or contracts which do not currently exist.

It has been argued by some professionals and employment experts that the Civil Service System is antiquated and obsolete with regards to personnel management. One could agree that such systems are obsolete or unnecessary when they are replaced by a comprehensiveandprofessionallyestablished Personnel / Human Resources program and policies. Costs of maintaining a Civil Service Commission itself is relatively low. Costs are incurred when the Commission's guidelines provide civil employees with negotiated benefits which are approved by both the commission and City officials. Without a Civil Service Commission the costs of these benefits (wages and benefits) would otherwise be established through the municipality in adherence to accepted human resource policies and practices. Removal of the Civil Service Commission should only be undertaken after these policies are established and not before such action is taken.

Please vote this Nov. 4 and ensure transparency, efficiency and fairness in your local government. Vote "No" to repealing this important Chapter in our City Charter.

Todd Schrecengost City Resident

# Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Friday, Oct. 31** Trick or Treat in downtown Belleville, 5-7 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 1 Guiding Harbor's 29<sup>th</sup>-annual Girlstown Auction at the Yankee Air Museum, 47884 D Street. Registration/socializing, 4-4:30 p.m., live and silent auction with cash bar, 4:30-7 p.m. Dinner and event tickets \$50 per person until Oct. 25; \$60 thereafter. None at the door. <a href="mailto:tmwhitten01@gmail.com">tmwhitten01@gmail.com</a> or 231-878-4150.
- Sunday, Nov. 2 Bugles Across America is held at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans

Memorial on High Street in Belleville to honor military people serving and at rest with a brief ceremony.

- Friday, Nov. 7 St. John's Lutheran Church, 28320 Waltz Rd., Waltz, is having a Potato Pancake Supper from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Donations for adults, \$10; children 6-12, \$4; children 5 and under free. Carry-outs available only after 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by St. John's Ladies Aid.
- Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8 Sumpter Seniors Craft Show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at the Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Road. Table sales help support the Senior Christmas Party. Information: (734) 461-2296.





Saturday, November 1, 2014 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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October 30, 2014/Belleville Area Independent

## **More Letters**

### Taxpayers: Vote NO to remove Civil Service

To the Editor:

I want to express my gratitude to the many responses I have had from the article that appeared in the Independent on the Belleville City administration's proposal to remove civil service from the city charter.

I also wish to thank Richard Smith, former mayor and city councilman, who was the chairperson on the writing of the Belleville City Charter. Richard Smith was astounded at the administration's desire to throw out the exact specifications of hiring on merit and not cronvism. It completely destroys the City Charter Commission's

intent of fair and equal opportunities for employment and destroys the check-andbalance system.

He wrote a letter asking people to vote NO. He mailed it to their homes, as well as having it published in the Independent.

For your information, I would like to include several excerpts of statements that I have received recently, including comments made at the last council meeting by the Mayor.

#1. This first person pointed out that, "Since 1982 when the charter was conceived EVERY elected Mayor has operated the city government under the terms and conditions as written in the charter, very mindful of the check-and-balance systems written into the charter by the charter committee. The leader of this present administration showed reluctance and unwillingness with a complete indifference to following the terms of the charter as written in 1982."

The writer continued, "There appears to be an underlying personal motive to subvert and obliterate the Civil Service Commission, their duties, and destroy the check-and-balance system that was written by the charter committee to despicably camouflage and shroud any opposition to the autocratic style of management."

#2. "I was hired to work for the City of Belleville by the Civil Service Commission after they did testing, background investigations, and conducting an oral interview to determine my qualifications to do the job. I felt the commission and the city charter offered a fair and equal opportunity to the person described in the civil service section as a person with merit and understanding of the city's policies. I was also equally impressed with the appeal process (for any employee to present his side of the story). The employee can have an attorney at his hearing, the city in presenting their case can also have an attorney, and the three-man Civil Service Commission evaluates the case, and as John Barr, our former city attorney, stated the commission acts as the judges and either upholds, reverses, or modifies the decision. Also in the charter, it states the Civil Service Commission's verdict is to be official and carried out. Any decision that they ruled, or were asked, or that came up before them, would be official.

"As I am now studying to become an attorney, I am following this case very closely and find that the Mayor and City Manager are seething and hostile because the Civil Service Chief of Police retired, the Director of the DPW retired, and according to the rules and regulations of employment were entitled to having their health care paid 100% by the city if they had 25 years of service. This has been a promise from the City and has been on record for 20 to 24 years, if not longer. However, this administration has not followed the city's promise, and both of these retirees are paying for their health care insurance. Also, this administration did not comply with the official decision of the Civil Service Commission as mandated in the city charter.

"Something is amiss here -- a masquerade and concealment because amendments to the rules and regulations can be made to augment conditions and agreed upon by both the Civil Service Commission and the City Council. Apparently, this is not satisfactory for this Mayor and she is trying to remove the civil service section from the charter, so she does not have to follow the rules and regulations as directed by the Belleville Charter Commission in 1982 and honor the city's commitment and promise to pay for retirees' health insurance.

"As a college graduate with three different majors, I have watched through my business management course experience and now my legal foundation, what appears to be a one-person control being set up to take over with no check and balance systems.

"I left the City of Belleville employment when I saw the disparagement and lack of profoundness directed by the administration. I have followed the happenings of the city. and now the trickery of saying that the Civil Service Commission only applies to three employees, trying to eliminate the hiring of competent and merit individuals - doing away with all of the duties assigned by this charter to the Civil Service Commission, including their responsibility to make rules and regulations of employment. Destroying any type of employee appeal on matters that come before the Civil Service Commission. The Mayor has indicated that the city clerk would become an atwill employee. Can you imagine yourself after working for 20-some years to being reduced to at-will employee - where you can be discharged for any reason --- and you do not have any appeal process to give your side of the problem - no appeal process - no civil service - just a oneperson show. Ala Kwame Kilpatrick, City of Detroit - cronyism, father, cousin, mistress, contractors, no check and balance - one-man show. Robert Ficano, Wayne County Executive - remember the airport director fiasco. He authorized a \$200,000 retirement from a previous county job - cronyism, the hiring of relatives of his girlfriend - the current only partially built jail project with the taxpayers' money now abandoned because of cost overruns. Again, and no check-and-balance system and a one-man show. "Would you or anyone else care to work

for the City of Belleville? That's the reason

Although there were other comments. I will conclude this letter telling of a conversation between individuals at

#3. "I thought we lived in a society and democracy where the taxpaying citizens elected the people to serve us, honor the



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Sumpter Twp. Scott Beard.

(Continued on page 18)

### Belleville Area Independent/October 30, 2014

### **More Letters**

(Continued from page 17)

charter commission work that has been in effect for 32 years and not to circumvent, destroy, or abolish what has worked for every other Mayor and Council for 32

"At Monday night's Council meeting, the Mayor said the City Manager shall act as personnel director and secretary of the commission, however, she glossed over the final statement where it said, 'shall perform such duties and responsibilities as shall be determined BY the commission.' Note: Determined by the commission, not the City Manager.

"The Charter Commission set up a civil-service section providing that they administer a fair and equitable system for people with merit to fill vacant positions. The Civil Service Commission also was charged with all provision of salary, vacations, work rules and regulations, and an appeal process for any employee disciplined or wishing to disclose confidential information that was harmful to the city, such as cheating on time worked, falsifying applications, history of previous employment and theft of city money, or any other matter brought

before the commission. (All of these items listed have become cases that the Civil Service Commission investigated and gave recommendations, including firing.)

"Do the above-listed duties sound like all that the civil service takes care of is three employees? The rumor that is circulating in Belleville and was told by a former city council person is that the current City Manager, who was hired by the Mayor, will be retiring in the future and that the Mayor will then apply for the City Manager's job and wants to have in place the ability to run a one-man show with no constraints, no rules and regulations to follow, and to implement upon the taxpayers whatever! There were no public meetings scheduled to discuss the pros and cons of this action to remove civil service from the charter. Again, for the record, there is an amendment process on record that could have been involved to resolve any problems that arise. The charter committee installed this provision into the charter.

"Another quote from Mayor Conley on Monday night's council meeting (Oct. 20) is 'actually, CSC members are volunteers and not necessarily up to date on new

"Wow! What a condescending slap-in-theface statement to everybody that is serving on boards, commissions, council, etc. You are only a volunteer. In reality, weren't you contacted and requested to serve? I don't know one person that volunteered and ran up to the authority requesting to be placed on a commission. Do you feel like you want to continue on your board or commission?

"Since members of the various boards and commissions are appointed by the Mayor, there's a paradox here. Are people appointed to boards because of their usefulness or appointed to boards just to fill the chair?

"I do know one person on the commission, Mr. Bluhm, who reviews the syllabus (a legal paper covering the cases and decisions of the Michigan Supreme Court). This person writes to the various judges concerning their decision and keeps up to date on law changes. I guess the paradox here is everyone is not a dummy serving the City of Belleville, or that did serve the city."

### D. Bluhm conclusion:

I hope this has helped open the subject of the reason and necessity for the Civil Service Commission to remain on the charter as written by the Belleville City Charter Commission in 1982. It shows that the Civil Service Commission does much more and is assigned powers by the charter to do many things for the betterment of the employee, the city, and the morale of the workers.

Again, I bear no malice to anybody. I have no political ambitions and have felt honored to have been able to serve on the Civil Service Commission with some wonderful members who have worked for profit-making companies and seemingly understanding today's issues more clearly.

Don Bluhm

Belleville resident and former Civil Service Commissioner

## **Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice**

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN **BOARD MEETING MINUTES** October 20, 2014

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Public Safety Director Laurain, Executive Assistant LaMothe, Developmental Services Consultant Sloan, Administrative Assistant Fleming, Lieutenant Bazzy, Fire Chief Besson, DDA Director Ireland, Sergeant Keele, Secretary Montgomery and an audience of nine (9).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Supervisor Combs requested removal of New Business item #2 [To consider the purchase of six (6) emergency sirens from West Shore Services] to be postponed until the Board of Trustees meeting on November 18, 2014. Miller moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes October 6, 2014; Closed Session Minutes October 6, 2014; Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 7, 2014; Voucher List of October 21, 2014; Prepaid Lists of October 10, 2014 and October 16, 2014; Adoption of Resolution 2014-24 Health Care Opt-Out for 2015; Approval of the Public Safety Department Organization Chart; Approval of Resolution 2014-30 authorizing execution of infrastructure improvement permit with Wayne County to install emergency sirens; Approval of the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Romulus Fire Department and Approval of the Commercial Fireworks Display Permit Application by Colonial Fireworks]. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Combs read a letter from a resident thanking Officer Perez for his professionalism when responding to a medical situation at Walmart on September 12, 2014 and commended Recreation Account Clerk Price, on behalf of a citizen, for her helpfulness and professionalism. Trustee Jahr also commended Account Clerk Price on behalf of a resident for her coordination of transportation assistance. Representatives from Wayne County Community College Western Campus announced the Opening of a new

University Center and the addition of a Master's Degree Program through Northwood University commencing in January 2015. The public is invited to attend an open information session on the new MBA program Thursday October 23, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

NEW BUSINESS: Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the Public Safety Deputy Director Job Description and the Personal Services Agreement between Jason Wright and the Township and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

McClanahan moved, Wright seconded to grant Special Land use approval to McDonald's for a second drive-through land at its existing restaurant at 2193 Rawsonville Rd. Carried.

Motion by Wright to adopt Resolution 2014-29 to approve the AutoZone Storm Water System Maintenance and Repair Agreement with the property owner and notify Wayne County of this action. Motion Died.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Free Candy Loop Saturday October 25, 2014 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Friends of Michigan Animals Recue will be there with some furry friends for a Bootacular "Meet and Greet", The Clerk's Office will be open Saturday November 1, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for absentee ballots, Township offices will be closed Tuesday November 11, 2014 in observance of Veterans Day, Public Safety will provide a candy check, safety tips and extra patrols in the community during the Halloween treat or treating, Goodfellows registration begins Monday November 3, 2014 eligible applicants must live in the City of Belleville or Van Buren Township, show driver's license or current utility bill and apply in person. Applications available on the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org. Deadline to apply is December 5, 2014 at 4:00

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None **CLOSED SESSION**: None

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Carried. Respectfully submitted, Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor Published: October 30, 2014





City of Belleville Harbour Points Sub-Division Streets Parking on One Side of Street Only



On September 15, 2014, Belleville City Council approved "Traffic Order 14-3", a Resolution to designate parking on one side only of each street in Harbour Pointe Subdivision. This traffic pattern allows for better access of emergency vehicles without the possible hindrance or interference of vehicles being parked on both sides of the street. This action was predicated on concerns of the homeowners in the area as well as Public Safety Officials.

Signage is currently being installed. The City has placed a 90 day moratorium on enforcement of the traffic order during which time vehicles parked in no parking zones will receive a written notice (without penalty) to move the vehicle. The 90 day moratorium will commence after complete installation of all signage. Upon expiration of the moratorium vehicles will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.

Publish: October 30, 2014

Lisa Long, City Clerk

# District Library Board to finalize survey at November meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman Independent Editor

A proposed six-page survey of library users will be voted on at the Nov. 18 meeting of the Belleville Area District Library board.

The survey will be used to help the library board decide what to do next in the wake of the overwhelming defeat of its two proposals in the Aug. 5 primary election.

Voters turned down a .96-mill proposal for 20 years to build a new, 45,000-square-foot library on the lake in Van Buren Township, plus upgrading a part of the community center in Sumpter for a branch. Voters also said no to 1 mill more for library operations.

At the Sept. 9 meeting, the board considered an eight-page survey prepared by board secretary Joy Cichewicz. After discussion, Cichewicz said she would sit down and hone it down to make it shorter – and she did, by two pages.

The slightly shorter draft survey was discussed at length at the Oct. 14 library board meeting.

Among many questions, the survey includes questions on how much more the anonymous person filling out the survey would be willing to pay for a new library.

"People could say everything is excellent, but not be willing to pay for it," Cichewicz said. "...They have nothing to gain by being dishonest."

"Everyone would be able to take this survey

and we can work out the percentages," said Chris Brasil.

Cichewicz said she would recommend using Survey Monkey software to tally the answers. She said she is familiar with the system.

Joe Monte agreed. He said he has used Survey Monkey a few times and it is easy to use.

At the Nov. 18 meeting, the board will look at it again and decide whether to insert the survey in the library newsletter at the end of December, but encourage people to complete the survey on line.

Cichewicz said her first draft of the survey was longer because, "It had the kitchen sink in it."

She said workers can input the data from surveys filled out by hand and that would give the board every comment submitted. She said it would cost \$300 or less to do a Survey Monkey for a year's subscription.

Library Director Deb Green asked Cichewicz to send out her final draft by email to her and board members before the November meeting so everyone can study it before a vote is taken.

In other business at the Oct. 14 meeting, the board:

• Heard John Juriga report he had approved accepting a \$600 bid on roof wiring to melt off ice and snow and that it will have ground fault surface interrupter equipment in the library office. He also said he has contacted the 34th District

Court work program to get two painters to paint over the graffiti remnants on the aluminum siding and got two bids for a vinyl or aluminum siding on other parts of the building. He said Excel Co. bid \$2,282, which he called "a decent bid," and Home Depot bid \$5,192, which was "twice as much." He said he needs to get a bid on the gutters for the 70' portico. He said the gutters there are 4" and they should have been 6". He said in the past someone tried to save money;

- Approved the Picture Media Consent Policy that says people who are at library functions automatically give consent to be photographed for use in print and/or electronic publicity for the library;
- Approved the policy that the library does not allow petitioning, solicitation, distribution of literature or leaflets, canvassing or similar types of appeals by members within the facility. Also, people who wish to do the above outside may do so as long as they do not impede access by the public to the facility. During a discussion on the policy, Cichewicz said she doesn't want to be petitioned in the parking lot or on the porch. She was told to just say no;
- Heard Director Green report that there were over 600 people at Harvest Fest and Cichewicz is the backbone of the library's Harvest Fest activities, also supervising the petting zoo and the horses. Cichewicz and her husband Rick will be speaking at the library on Nov. 13 about their trip to Cuba,

with pictures;

- Heard Green report that six members of the Canton Library staff recently came to tour the Belleville Library as part of a professional development day. "It was I won't say embarrassing, but we looked pretty shabby," Green said, adding, that the group said they liked the courtyard;
- Heard Cichewicz say that recently the 24 library employees were made a "political toy in the campaign battle for this board." She praised the staff and said she talked with people and "not one person had a complaint about the staff. I'm proud of the staff." Other board members agreed that the staff was wonderful.

After the meeting, the *Independent* asked Cichewicz what she was talking about. She said almost all those running for the board said the "staff needs to be held accountable."

A spokesperson for the Common Cents slate said the candidates never had a problem with the library staff and never said anything about the staff. The slate members called for accountability in library oversight and operations, which refers to the library board and director, she said.



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Kathryn White

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Wayne State Board of Governors Marilyn Kelly & Dana Thompson

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Hoon-Yung Hopgood – 6th District Dian Slavens - 7th District

### Michigan State Representative

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Wayne County Executive Warren Evans Wayne County Commissioner Abdul "Al" Haidous – 11th District

Wayne County District Court Judge
David Parrott – 34th District Court

Van Buren School Board of Education
Trustee

Kevin English Sherry Frazier Scott Russell

### **Belleville District Library Board**

LaChelle Reed Caver Bernard A. Grant Phillip Miller Sharon C. Peters Tanya Stoudemire

This November, vote as if your paycheck or pension is on the line...because it is! When we vote, we win!

Paid for by Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club, P. O Box 1182, Belleville, MI 48112

# Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Tomorrow is Halloween and Trick or Treat Main Street will take place from 5 until 7 p.m. The Belleville Central Business Community will be holding its annual Costume Contest at the 4th Street Square beginning at 6 p.m. Judging and prizes will be given in categories: infant to 3 years, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13 and up, and family. Weather permitting, the Lunch Box will be offering free family hayrides with a taste of spookiness from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The route will take riders down Liberty Street to First Street, to Main, then back to the Lunch Box.

**5th Street Photography** will be offering free spooktacular photographs for trick or treaters from 5 to 7 p.m. at its business at **25 Fifth Street** downtown. Call **(734) 328-4872.** 

Be sure to check out the many scarecrows and Halloween decorations along the Main Street business route. This town rocked this month. Thanks to the Booville committee for bringing this to our community and let's do it again next year.

The Belleville Presbyterian Church on Belleville Road will be holding their annual Christmas Bazaar, Luncheon & Bake Sale this Saturday, Nov. 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person for adults, \$3.50 for children 5-12. The admission price includes a salad lunch, dessert, coffee or tea. There will be crafts, bake sale, and a raffle. The event is sponsored by the Belleville Presbyterian Women's Association. Call (734) 697-8687.

\*\*\*

The Belleville High School Senior Class of 2015 will be holding a bottle and can drive to support the BHS Senior Party this Sunday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BHS parking lot.

\*\*\*

**Main Street Flowers** is offering 20% off right now on all in-store fall decorations. Call (**734**) **697-7400**.

\*\*\*

Threads & Treasures Quilt Shop at 129 South Street near 5 Points offers

# 

Buy 20 Yards or More and We'll Donate \$50 to the BHS Band Fund!\*

\*Offer Expires December 1, 2014

# DOUGLAS CARPETS

Professional Installation Of Quality Carpeting, Laminate Wood Flooring, And No-Wax Vinyl. We Sell Shaw, Mohawk, and Beaulieu Carpet.

(734) 697-9137

OVER 200 REMS IN STOCK!
HOURS: MON-FRI 9:00-6:00 · SATURDAY 9:00-4:00
240 MAIN ST., BELLEVILLE, MI 48111

"Celebrating Over 35 Years"

everything from fabric, books and patterns to quilts for sale, custom orders, and quilt-making classes. They're open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call **Kay Atkins** at **(734) 697-9376**.

\*\*\*

Thank you, to all of you candidates who chose to advertise your message with us for next week's election. It's been a pleasure working with you and good luck on Nov. 4.

\*\*\*

Want free color in the *Independent*? Simply sign your ad up for a year. If you're an advertiser that runs every week with us anyway, the 52-week run will not only get your ad colorized by our production team, you'll save 35% off the total contract. To learn more, call me at (734) 699 9020.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

### **More Letters**

# Thanks for your sock donations for First Step

To the Editor and Readers:

Mr. Mouse and I wish to thank you for over 200 pairs of socks donated to First Step, an organization dedicated to helping abused and homeless families. These socks were accepted by one of the in-take personnel. Their need is constant and Mr. Mouse chooses to conduct a Sock Drive annually. Also thanks to Trinity Episcopal Church for accommodating the sock collection location.

Again thank you and children for sharing and caring for those who are in need.

Marian Caldwell

Van Buren Township

### **PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR RENT

1 BR. APT. 2nd Floor. Corner of 5th & Liberty St. \$595/mo. plus security. Includes heat & water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good credit. No Pets. (734) 945-2409

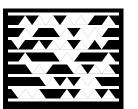
BEAUTIFUL 2 BR. TOWNHOUSE Laundry inside, enclosed private deck/yard & pool. Free Storage. See it NOW! \$800+Security. (734) 776-1480 10/30

# LAWNCARE

# PERSON NEEDED

**HELP WANTED** 

Immediate Opening.
Experienced With Trimmer,
Edger & Blower. Pay Based
On Experience -- \$10-\$15.
27-30 Hours Minimum Per
Week. Contact Jay @
(734) 323-8973



Get the free mobile app at http://gettag.mobi

### **HELP WANTED**

DRIVER NEEDED. Approximately two hours per day, M-F. (734) 717-6540. 11/20

BELLEVILLE LADY seeks qualified assistant/student to help send resumes. MUST be proficient in all aspects of computers and filling out on-line applications. 15-20 hrs/week at \$10/hour. Calls only: (248) 277-1080

DRIVERS: Dedicated Home Daily! Dedicated Round Trip Runs. CDL-A, 6 mos. OTR, Good Background. Apply: www.mtstrans.com or (800) 305-7223. 11/6

### HIRING IMMEDIATELY

Dedicated & Reliable
Bus Drivers for
Permanent Positions
for Van Buren Public
Schools. Starting Pay:
\$11.50/hour.
Call 734-699-5100

Full/Part Time
Custodians needed
ASAP! Must pass
background check,
must have reliable
transportation. Please
call 313-886-7797 for
more information.

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800

### **HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED** 

### **DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT**

Feel great about the work that you do helping people we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided. \$8.50 total per hr. plus good benefits.

Call (248) 437-7535 New Hudson Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

### DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Work close to home assisting persons we serve in their homes in the Wixom & Novi communities. \$8.50 total per hr. plus good benefits. Call (248) 960-9657 or (248) 946-4425 Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

### **AUCTION**

# JNG Auction Services ONLINE AUCTION:

October 31st - November 5th
John Deere Mower, 3 Wheel ATV,
Buick Regal, Commercial Spray
& New Items

**763 Sumpter Rd., Belleville** Accepting quality consignments and estates.

www.JNGAUCTIONS.com 734-489-4636

### **CRAFT SHOWS**

YPSILANTI TWP. SENIOR'S CRAFT show. November 1, 9am-3pm. Ypsilanti Twp. Parks & Recreation, 2025 E. Clark Road. Lunch, Bake Sale and raffles. 10/30

### **GARAGE/YARD SALE**

FIVE FAMILY SALE. Michigan & Denton, On Denton next to party store. November 1 & 2, 9am-dark. New Sale November 3-9, 6500 Western. (734) 796-4593.

ESTATE SALE at Dr. Stopa's, 167 Main Street, Belleville. October 28, 29 & 30, 9am-5pm. Antiques, furniture, old toys, fishing lures, tools, household goods. 10/30

ESTATE SALE. November 1 & 2, 8am-5pm. 653 Oregon in Holiday West. Everything must go! No reasonable offers refused.

### **FOR SALE**

TWO LARGE SOW HOGS, make an offer. Also two feeder pigs, \$75 each. Call (734) 270-2583

7 FOOT PINE Christmas tree, some ornaments \$25. Treadmill, space saver, cushion deck, \$85. Glass top desk, 42x22, \$50. JVC TV W/stand, 36", \$75. Call (734) 461-6347.

GENERATOR, 6HP, 3750 Watts. \$200 Romulus (734) 765-9528.

TWO ELECTRIC SCOOTERS with seats. Batteries and scooters are great. \$175ea. or \$300 for both. Maybee, MI. Call (734) 819-8292

5' BABY GRAND PIANO. White. Like new condition. \$1,900 (734) 697-2250 11/13

CHAR-GRILL. Never Used. When new \$79 - selling for \$40. Call Teresa (734) 383-4378

"I love a dog, he does nothing for political reasons."

- Will Rogers

### **VEHICLE FOR SALE**

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed! (734) 282-1700

2000 FORD RANGER XLT. Runs good, original owner. College student needs funds for school. \$2,000 OBO. Call (734) 697-9892 or (734) 516-9686

SATURN ION, 2007. Ignition switch replaced. 88,900 miles. Wine colored, AC, 4-door. Very good condition. Extra Clean. \$5,000 (734) 635-1549

JOHN DEERE 5 BOTTOM PLOWS. Make an offer. Call (734) 461-6542 or Cell (734) 516-5937.

1990 JEEP CHEROKEE, 4x4, Auto, 6cy. 125,000 miles. \$1,100 OBO. 2002 FOCUS, 4cy, 4 speed. \$1,700 OBO. Call Pete (734) 796-3058

2005 CHEVY SILVERADO LS 1500 Ext. Cab. Gray, very good condition. Low miles (under 62,000). One owner, clean title. \$11,000 OBO. Call (734) 502-9181 or (734) 697-7267.

### **FREE**

MARIA HOLMES HARBOR LANE You've won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TEN

THREE ADORABLE baby kittens. 7 weeks. Litter box trained, child proofgood with kids. Have first set of shots. (734) 218-4421

TWO KITTENS. 1 ½ yrs old (1 male & 1 female). Very playful tabbies. Litter box trained-eating kibble. 384 Nevada in Holiday West. (734) 383-1402

FRIENDLY KITTENS to a good home. Neutered & shots. (734) 968-1209

"Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened."

- Winston Churchill

### Notice to Advertisers: The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable

for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

### **WANTED**

TUNK CARS
7 Days A Week For
\$300 & Up!
Cash Paid!
(734) 787-1444

# WANTED: JUNK CARS

Running or Not. Top \$
Paid. Call For Free
Pickup. Drive In For
Extra Dollars.

734-282-1700

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600

### LOST

MALE CAT-brown tabby. South Service Drive and Belleville Rd. May be injured. Call (734) 697-0412

GRAY COCKATIEL, Angel, with white along both her wings. Lost in Belleville since July 8, 2014. Reward. Call Linda (734) 699-2266.

DIGITAL CAMERA left at BHS Football Stadium on Thursday, September 18. Heartbroken over the loss. Please consider at least returning the SD card with three years of family pictures to: 13851 Lenmoore, Belleville 48111 or call (734) 325-6874.

MISSING SINCE May 21. 6 year old orange tabby male cat named Charlie. All declawed. I-94 S. Service Drive Area - REWARD. (734) 699-5997

### SERVICES

ELECTRICAL WIRING & Generator Systems. Installations & repairs. Call Electro-Tech (313) 520-1212

COMPUTER REPAIRS by experienced college student; improve overall performance. Very fair prices. Call Royce (734) 664-8657.

### **SERVICES**

Take Advantage Of Fall Rates!

Call FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING

(734) 699-4711

FREE ESTIMATES!!!

YEAR ROUND SERVICES

\*Landscaping Maintenance\*

\*Snow Removal\* Garage, Basement

& Attic Clean-Ups\*
Removal Of: Unwanted Home
Items, Inside Or Outside Debris.

### **A&L SERVICES**

Home Improvement & Handyman Service

Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath. Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628

.

# M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers Dryers • Ranges \$20 House Call

Phone (734) 782-3354

PLUMBING • SEWER DRAINS • HANDYMAN Over 41 Years Experience. Local To The Belleville Area. Call (313) 740-6276. Ask For Bill.

LOCAL HANDYMAN – SOME Jobs too LARGE – NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Power Washing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed! (734) 282-1700

MURRAY'S GENERAL SERVICE.
Commercial & Residential Lawn Care.
Licensed & Insured. Hauling.
(734) 325-6062

CARPET HEADQUARTERS. Sales/ Installation/Repairs/Re-stretching. Est. 1979. Ask about our carpet specials. Call Phil (734) 612-7570.

### Belleville Area Independent/October 30, 2014 1923 - suspicious incident, Willis/Rawsonville

# Van Buren Township

# **Police Dispatch Log**

The following are selected calls for VBT Police. Sunday, Oct. 19:

- 0158 retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 1246 larceny from auto, E. Huron River Dr.
- 1451 private property accident, Meadows Ct.
- 1637 assault & battery, W. Archwood
- 1746 wires down, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1831 trespassing, Robbe Rd.
- 1936 fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 2143 disorderly conduct, Post Office

### Monday, Oct. 20:

- 0147 noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.
- 0611 unauthorized driving away of auto, Lake Villa Dr.
- 1309 larceny, Belleville
- 1630 sexual assault, W. Walden Dr.
- 1646 fraud, Bemis Rd.
- 1743 property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service
- 1904 assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
- 1912 narcotics crime, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2018 missing person, Quirk Rd.
- 2101 property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
- 2333 suspicious situation, Hardwood Dr.

### Tuesday, Oct. 21:

- 0735 property damage accident, Michigan Service Or. / Denton Rd.
- 0833 property damage accident, Belleville/I-94
- 0947 agency assist, Michigan Ave. 1003 - private property accident, Van Born
- 1456 juvenile complaint, Quirk Park
- 1459 larceny from auto, Haggerty Rd.
- 1530 noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
- 1539 loitering, W. Huron River Dr./Rawsonville
- 1725 suspicious situation, S. Schooner Dr.
- 1726 felony assault, Westlake
- 1901 property damage accident, Belleville Rd. Wednesday, Oct. 22:

- 0007 assault & battery, Denton Rd.
- 0734 property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Tyler Rd.
- 1328 trespassing, Oak Ln.
- 1516 suspicious person, Rawsonville DNR
- 1541 private property accident, Van Born 1727 - unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94
- Service Dr.
- 1742 larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
- 2142 retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

### Thursday, Oct. 23:

- 0723 property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.
- 1355 assault & battery, Rawsonville
- 1501 fight, Michigan Ave.
- 1514 narcotics crime, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1530 suspicious person, Savage Rd.
- 1537 fight, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
- 1547 disorderly conduct, Ecorse Rd.
- 1617 narcotics crime, Parkwood Dr.
- 1647 fraud, Oak Ln.
- 1752 mental, Holly Ln.
- 2158 assault & battery, Michigan Ave./Denton 2159 - mental, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2259 noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.

### Friday, Oct. 24:

- 0205 assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0758 juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
- 0843 agency assist, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty
- 1115 larceny, Denton Rd.
- 1225 private property accident, S. I-94 Service
- 1359 fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 1548 fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 1712 fraud, Denton Rd.
- 1815 suspicious person, Arlene Ln./Savage Rd.
- 1834 retail fraud, Kmart
- 1928 loitering, Belleville Rd.
- 2010 juvenile complaint, Quirk
- 2043 suspicious person, Village Green 2053 - suspicious vehicle, Chase Bank
- 2206 suspicious vehicle, French Landing Park
- 2210 noise complaint, Rose Blvd.
- 2226 assault & battery, Park Estates
- 2243 suspicious person, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd
- 2318 noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl. 2332 - agency assist, McGregor/William

- Saturday, Oct. 25:
- 0101 larceny, Colony Ln.
- 0116 noise complaint, E. Archwood Dr.

- 0223 breaking & entering, Ash Dr.
- 0335 private property accident, Rawsonville Rd.
- 0736 shots fired, Morton Taylor Rd.
- 1140 larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1539 property damage accident, Rawsonville Taco
- property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
- 1802 juvenile complaint, Oak Ln./I-94 Service
- $1930-unauthorized\ driving\ away\ of\ auto,\ S.\ I-94$
- 2057 operating while intoxicated, Belleville/N.
- 2048 operating while intoxicated, Savage Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
- 2132 personal injury accident, NB I-275/Ecorse
- 2233 fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 2306 private property accident, N. Bellridge Dr.
- 2318 noise complaint, Cherry Ln. Also on this week's log are 160 traffic stops, with 18
- of those on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## **Belleville Police** Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Oct. 19:

- 1645 intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1727 lost property, Main St.
- 1743 malicious destruction of property, Church 2106 - agency assist, Victorian Ln./W. Waterbury
- 2211 disorderly conduct, Carmell St.
- 2351 follow up, Belle Villa
- Monday, Oct. 20:

### 1546 - civil matter, E. Thornhill Ct.

- 1705 animal complaint, Wexford Ave.
- 1934 juvenile complaint, Carmell 2231 - suspicious vehicle, Hull Rd.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21: 0151 - suspicious situation, Frosty Boy
- 1258 disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1756 motorist assist, Edison Ave./High St. 1940 - narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1952 suspicious situation, W. Columbia Ave.
- 2048 assist citizen, Main St.

### Wednesday, Oct. 22:

- 0122 warrant arrest, Main St.
- 0814 malicious destruction of property, Anaheim
- 1134 welfare check, E. Waterbury Ct.
- 1212 larceny, Harbour Pointe Dr. / Light Tower
- 1428 property damage accident, Sumpter Rd.
- 1429 narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave. 1451 - assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
- 1703 warrant arrest, Harper Woods
- 1714 assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
- 1927 civil matter, Loza Ln.
- 2045 assist citizen, Sumpter Rd.

### Thursday, Oct. 23:

- 0021 civil matter, Church St.
- 0433 suspicious person, Robbe St./Biggs Ave.
- 0741 motorist assist, Main St.
- 0926 larceny, Main St.
- 0940 suspicious situation, Main St.
- 1054 malicious destruction of property, Third St. / Church St.
- 1138 follow up, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1243 vehicle lockout, Main St.
- 1455 vehicle lockout, South St. 1513 - animal complaint, Wexford Ave.
- 1632 bank drop, Main St. 1846 - property check, Main St.
- 2023 harassment call, W. Columbia Ave.

### Friday, Oct. 24:

- 0027 suspicious situation, E. Columbia Ave. 0122 - mental, Belle Villa Blvd.
- 0753 larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1009 assist fire dept., Owen
- 1103 intrusion alarm, Third St. 1140 - assist fire dept., Carmell St.
- 1254 miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
- 1416 found property, Main St. 1725 - noise complaint, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa
- 1808 civil matter, South St.
- 1801 follow up, San Carlos St.
- 2019 agency assist, Victory Park
- Saturday, Oct. 25: 0014 - intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.

- 0358 agency assist, WB I-94/Vining
- 1247 intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
- 2208 domestic assault, Bay Pointe Dr.
- $2216-property\ damage\ accident,\ High\ St.\ /\ W.$ Huron River Dr.
- 2222 property damage accident, High/Edison Also on this week's log are 49 traffic stops.

# **Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log**

### Sunday, Oct. 19:

Monday, Oct. 20:

- 0116 alarm, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
- 0242 malicious destruction of property, 48000 bl.
  - 0918 civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
  - 1222 felonious assault, Rawsonville/Willis 1415 - alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
  - 1421 suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
- 1446 reckless driver complaint, Bemis / Rawsonville
- 1455 alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
- 1546 trespassing complaint, Willis/Sumpter 1836 - animal complaint, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 1921 property damage accident, 40000 bl. Judd 2108 - fight, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 2213 civil dispute, 40000 Willis Rd.
- 0841 fire dept. assist, Delaware
- 1453 fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Carleton West 1525 - ordinance violation, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
- 1525 property damage accident, 47000 bl. Bemis 1546 - missing person, Greenmeadow
- 2108 assist other agency, Bemis/Rawsonville  $2310-warrant\ arrest,\ Bemis/Sumpter$

### Tuesday, Oct. 21: 0522 - personal injury accident, Willis/Elwell

- 1025 fire dept. assist, 3000 bl. Deborah Ct. 1045 - ordinance violation, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 1108 property damage accident, Clark/Judd
- 1157 fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln. 1205 - animal complaint, 20000 bl. Martinsville
- 1229 suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd. 1803 - citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd. 1925 - disorderly person, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### 2238 - warrant arrest, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd. Wednesday, Oct. 22:

- 0319 unauthorized driving away of auto, 23000
- bl. Sherwood Rd. 1121 - fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 1124 citizen assist, 7900 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
- 1523 breaking & entering report, Greenmeadow 1544 - fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.

### 2046 - fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster

- Thursday, Oct. 23:
- 0247 suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Wear Rd. 0547 - animal complaint, Haggerty/Clark
- 0801 personal injury accident, Clark/S. Huron 0850 - fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 1551 shots fired, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd. 1615 - assist other agency, 9200 bl. Rawsonville Rd. 1627 - suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1730 property damage accident, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1914 ORV complaint, Haggerty/Judd 2021 - personal injury accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

2024 - animal complaint, Willis/Sumpter

### 2226 - operating while intoxicated arrest, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

- Friday, Oct. 24: 0025 - fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
- 1236 animal complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 1324 suspicious person, Wear/Bohn 1411 - animal complaint, 18000 bl. Morton

1709 - family trouble, Rustic Ln.

- 1458 assist other agency, Birch 1506 – breaking & entering report, 45000 bl. Arkona
- 1557 juvenile complaint, 46000 bl. Executive Dr. 1656 - property damage accident, 50000 bl. Willis
- 1658 animal complaint, 48000 bl. Harris Rd. 1704 - civil dispute, 8900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
- 1957 suspicious vehicle, 26000 bl. Carleton West 2017 - fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
- Saturday, Oct. 25: 0512 - assist other agency, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
  - 1446 fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln. 1512 - ORV complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

- 1954 suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood 2049 - breaking & entering report, Texas
- 2124 property damage accident, Sherwood/Willis 2205 – noise complaint, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
- 2221 property damage accident, Oakville Waltz/
- 2355 noise complaint, 22000 bl. Carleton West Also on this week's log are 15 follow-up investigations. 27 miscellaneous details, 120 patrol checks, and 41

# Halloween

(continued from page 1)

In order to assist the Van Buren Township community in enjoying this fun-filled holiday as safely as possible, the Van Buren Public Safety Department has compiled the following Halloween safety tips for children, their parents, homeowners and

Remember, this is a community effort in keeping our children safe and ensuring a fun time for all our residents, he said. Van Buren Public Safety Department is wishing all of you a safe and the spookiest of cultural holidays this year.

### **PARENTS**

to be out.

- Always escort your children if possible and carry a flashlight and cell phone.
- Be familiar with the neighborhood where your children will be trick-or-treating. • Set a specific time for your child/children
- Always know who is trick-or-treating with your children. · Walk on the sidewalks and not in the
- middle of the street. • Instruct your children NEVER to enter any homes.
- Stay in well-lighted areas. • Inspect all treats before allowing children
- Choose fireproof comfortable costumes made of light colored material so they can be easily seen in the dark. • Consider placing reflective or glow in the
- dark tape on your children's costumes. • Have children avoid wearing eye makeup or masks, which will restrict their vision.
- firearms, swords, or toys which can be mistaken for the real thing. · Give out only commercially wrapped

· Avoid having children carry replica

• Teach children their home and/or parent's cellular phone number in case they get · Consider a Halloween party at your

residence instead of going out to trick-or-



HALLOWEEN

October 30, 2014/Belleville Area Independent

### Accident

(continued from page 1)

system.

Toth said they closed the roadway from Rustic Lane north to Judd and there were a lot of emergency vehicles on Rawsonville Road, including a Michigan State Police accident team from Trenton investigating the incident. There also were two fire

# Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan **Animals Rescue** 

### TANSY



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trucks, three police cars, Toth's car and the chief's car. The Huron Valley Ambulance had left the scene with the injured man.

"We were just about done, when a citizen driving a northbound car came onto the accident scene, which was well blockedoff," Toth said.

The driver started going around the emergency vehicles slowly continuing north and Officer Brian Steffani stepped into the roadway and tried to wave him down, but the officer almost got hit by the vehicle and had to jump out of its path.

Toth said he and Officer Joseph Balowski then got into Toth's car and gave chase, finally stopping the vehicle. It turned out to be a drunk driver, Toth said.

# Belleville resident given indecent exposure

Paul Lee of Belleville spent 16 days in the Wayne County Jail after being charged

# probation in plea deal on

with exposing himself at Cocoa Beach tanning salon and Bladez hair salon next door on April 28 in the City of Belleville. Lee was set for his preliminary exam

on Oct. 1 and, instead, was released after making a plea deal before Judge David Parrott at the 34<sup>th</sup> district court.

He pled guilty to indecent exposure and the other charge was dropped.

Judge Parrott asked Lee what he did on April 28 and Lee said, "She saw my shorts. Regular shorts."

Judge Parrott looked over the police report and replied, "She seems to think she saw a little more than shorts."

In order to get his plea deal, Lee had to confess that she saw more than his shorts.

Court-appointed attorney Jeff Bowdich told the judge that Lee was enrolled in counselling prior to his arrest.

"I have four kids and I'm trying to do the right things," Lee said to Judge Parrott.

Lee was put on 12 months of probation at a cost of \$50 per month. If he doesn't comply with the terms of his probation, he will spend 90 days in jail, Judge Parrott

Bowdich pointed out that Lee's wife and mother were in the courtroom to support him and agreed he needed counseling.

At Cocoa Beach, the husband of the woman who reported being flashed said he chased Lee's vehicle in his car to Belle Villa where Lee lived and physically grabbed him. The Belleville police arrived immediately thereafter, he said.

The victim said Lee had been calling her on the phone and had come to Cocoa Beach when he saw her car parked outside. She said the business' surveillance tapes are very good.

Her husband said he talked to Lee's probation officer in Macomb County. where Lee was on probation for doing the same thing to another woman.

"Out of clutter, find simplicity." Albert Einstein





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